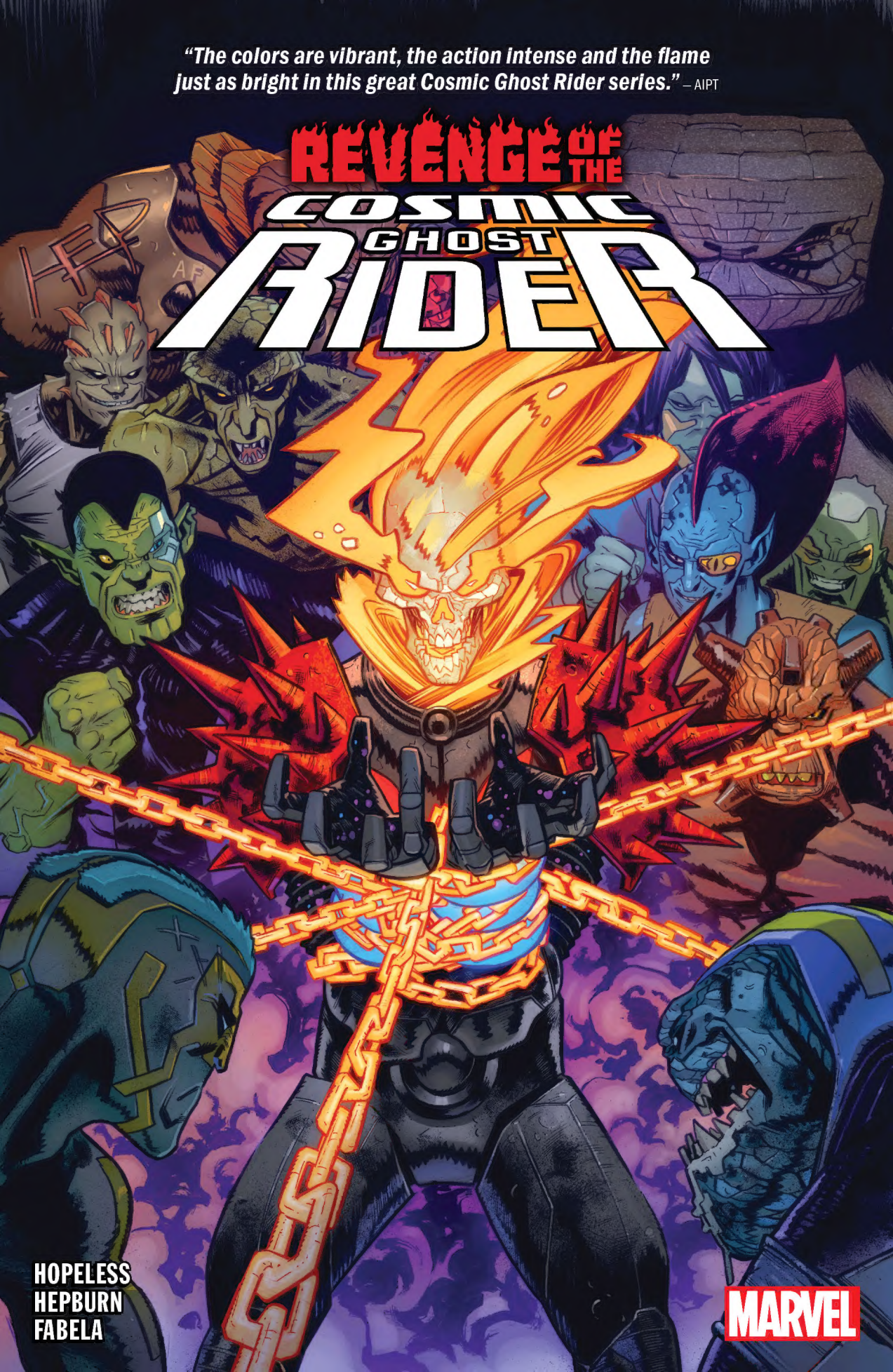
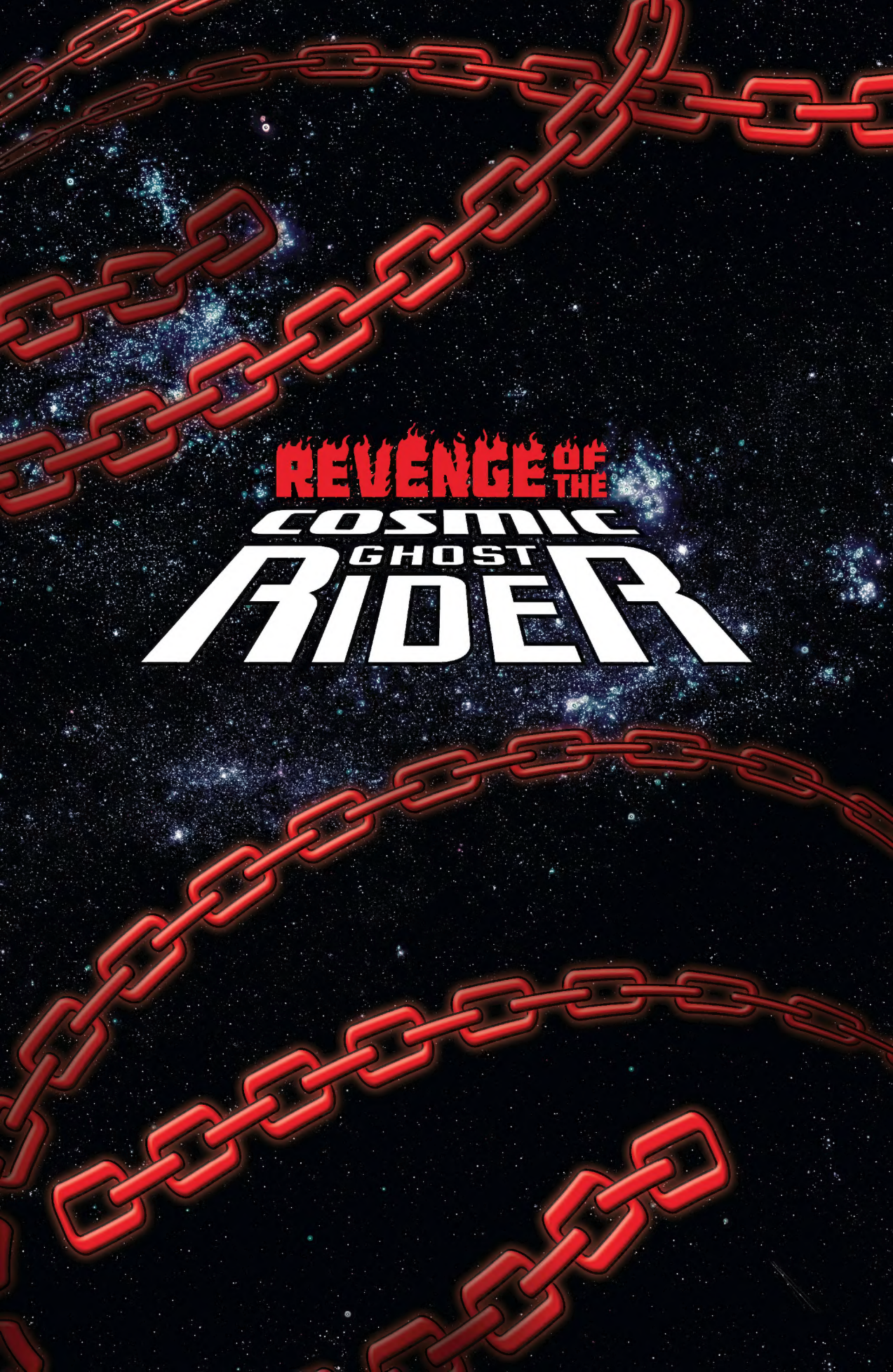
"The colors are vibrant, the action intense and the flame just as bright in this great Cosmic Ghost Rider series." – AIPT

REVENGE OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER



HOPELESS
HEPBURN
FABELA

MARVEL


REVENGE OF THE
COSMIC
GHOST
RIDER

FRANK CASTLE WAS A DECORATED MARINE AND AN UPSTANDING CITIZEN WHEN HIS FAMILY WAS KILLED IN A MOB HIT. FROM THAT DAY, HE WAS A FORCE OF RETRIBUTION... UNTIL HE DIED.

AND THEN HE RETURNED AS THE GHOST RIDER, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

AND THEN HE BECAME GALACTUS' HERALD.

AND THEN HE BECAME THE BLACK RIGHT HAND OF THANOS...

AND THEN HE DIED FOR REAL.

AND THEN HE WAS RESURRECTED IN VALHALLA AND WAS STUCK IN THE PAST.

AND THEN HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY FOR ONE MINUTE.

AND THEN HE RACED FOR THE THRONE OF HELL AGAINST EVERY OTHER GHOST RIDER IN EXISTENCE.

AND NOW...?
NOW HE'S READY TO DOLE OUT SOME COSMIC PUNISHMENT.

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REVENGE OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER

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1

SHI'AR SUPER-MAX INTERGALACTIC PRISON.
JUST A CAGE LIKE ANY OTHER.
SPACE CAGE FULL OF SPACE CREEPS.
A HUMAN? SERIOUSLY?
SOME KIND OF MASS MURDERER BACK ON EARTH. STARTED KILLING OFF-PLANET.
BAGH. FISH WON'T SURVIVE THE NIGHT.
SADISTS, PSYCHOS AND KILLERS.
DON'T MATTER WHAT PLANET THEY'RE FROM.
ALL DESERVED TO BE PUNISHED.
I DUNNO... WORD IS HE'S KILLED SO MANY SENTIENTS THIS CYCLE, THEY SENT THE IMPERIAL GUARD AFTER HIM.
ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE IS, SPACE PRISON WAS BUILT TO WITHSTAND INTERGALACTIC GODS AND MONSTERS.
WORLD EATERS IN BIG PURPLE HATS.
WHICH MEANS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY IN.
EVEN FOR ME.
GALACTIC SENATE. FOUR MONTHS BACK.
SORRY FOR THE SMELL, SENATORS.
SHAPE-SHIFTING GANGSTER SKRULLS TEND TO STINK WHEN YOU COOK 'EM.
GOTTA GET YOURSELF SENT.
CUTTER'S. TWO MONTHS BACK.
YOU'RE TEARING UP MY BAR!
DON'T SWEAT IT, BARKEEP. I'LL ONLY KILL WHAT NEEDS KILLING.

THE IMPERIAL GUARD?!
AFTER THAT SOFT-BELLIED HUMAN PUKE?
IT'S WHAT I HEARD.
"MUST BE HARDER THAN HE LOOKS.
RISE AND SHINE, BIRDBRAINS.
"GLADIATOR HIMSELF PASSED JUDGMENT."
CASTLE!
TELL ME WHY.
BECAUSE WAR CRIMES TEND TO GO UNPUNISHED...
...WHEN YOUR SIDE WINS.
HUH. MAYBE HE WILL SURVIVE THE NIGHT.
ALREADY MAKING FRIENDS.

SO YOU'RE THE PINK SKIN WHO TOOK OUT KRANDI'S BLACK WATER CREW?
COULD BE.
I TAKE OUT A LOT OF TRASH.
HARD TO REMEMBER ALL THEIR NAMES.
I WOULDN'T BE MAKING JOKES...
KRANDI--
HRRK! HEARRRD YOU THE FIRST TIME.
--WAS MY SISTER!
KRAAK

YOUR SISTER, HUH?
I HEAR YA.
HMM?
MAKES THIS A FAMILY OBLIGATION.
KAKRIK
KRAK
VENGEANCE SORTA THING.
HEY!
I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT VENGEANCE...
...MYSELF.
W-WHAT THE HELL--
--ARE YOU?!
WHAT AM I?
I MEAN... HEH...

HOW MUCH TIME YOU GOT?!

ONCE UPON A TIME, I WAS A GRIEVING HUSBAND AND FATHER.
CRAZY FROM THE PAIN OF MOURNING AND A LITTLE TOO GIFTED AT KILLING.
TRIED TO WASH MY CITY CLEAN WITH A RIVER OF BLOOD.
THEN ONE DAY I MET THE DEVIL.
SAID I COULD HOCK MY SOUL FOR SOME OF HIS HELLFIRE.
WHICH WAS FINE BY ME...
...SO LONG AS I COULD KEEP ON PUNISHING THE WICKED.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WAS HUMAN!
I SAY A LOT OF STUPID THINGS!

'COURSE, THEN GALACTUS CAME TO EARTH AND...
GET HIM!
THAT'S WHEN THINGS GOT REAL DAMN WEIRD.
KROOOOSH
KZZZZZZ
YAAAAAGH!

HE'S... PIERCED THE VEIL.
GODS!
IF THE POWER GOES DOWN. IF THAT THING GETS FREE. WE'RE...
ALREADY DEAD.
HEY!
HRRRGL...
WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?!
TELL ME YOU SCREWS DON'T THINK THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER'S SCARED OF THE...
GAAAH!
NO! NO! NYAAAAGH!
...DARK?
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, BOOGIE?
GUARD DOG OR INMATE?

'CUZ ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN.
BUT IF YOU'RE JUST AN EVIL OL' CREEPER COPPING A FEEL--
REEEAAAK!
--THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET HOT.
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THAT--
--SOUUUL...
THAT'S THAT.

LIGHTS OUT.
WE'RE ALREADY DEAD.
ALREADY DEAD.
ALREADY DEAD.
KRAAK
NO!
KREEEESH
CAN'T LET IT ESCAPE!
NO MATTER WHAAAAGH!
WORST-CASE SCENARIO PROTOCOL.
IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY SELF-DESTRUCT INITIATED.
GOODBYE.
TWOOOOOM

MONTHS LATER.
LOOK AT THAT.
SOMEBODY'S LITTLE HEAD.
ALMOST...
...SURVIVED THE BLAST.
AND YOUR LITTLE HEAD SURVIVES EVERY DAY WITHOUT THE TINIEST HINT OF A BRAIN IN IT.
THE UNIVERSE IS AWASH WITH MYSTERIES, C-DUBS.
KEEP MOUTHING OFF, CAMMI. SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

WHAT'D WE FIND?
SCOOPED UP A LOAD OF LOOSE PLASMA THAT SHOULD TURN A COIN. THEIR FUEL CELL MUST HAVE BEEN MASSIVE.
WE GOT A PILE OF RAW PLATINUM FROM THEIR POWER GRID AND A MOSTLY INTACT PROTEIN PLANT. ALONG WITH THE BLACK BOX THE BOSS WAS ASKING ABOUT.
WOOOSH
IS THAT EVERYTHING?
ALSO FOUND THIS SICK SKULL, CAPTAIN.
PRETTY SURE IT'S HUMAN.
NOW WE KNOW WHAT LITTLE CAMMI WILL LOOK LIKE AFTER I PEEL HER FACE OFF FOR RUNNING THAT MOUTH.
THAT'S RIGHT, CAPTAIN. IN CASE YOU WERE CURIOUS--
--C-DUBS IS STILL AN IDIOT.
KRNNNK
OW!
I'LL KILL YOU!
YOU PINK LITTLE--
WHAT?
THNNK
YOU ASKED ME TO QUIT RUNNING MY MOUTH.
THAT WAS AN ELBOW.
SQUASH IT RIGHT NOW OR I'LL SELL BOTH OF YOU FOR MEAT AT THE NEXT PORT!
AYE, CAPTAIN.

NOT ON YOUR BEST DAY, PIRATE.
LITTLE EARTH GIRL ALWAYS TALKING.
TALKING. TALKING.
THINKS THE CAPTAIN WILL KEEP HER SAFE.
BUT YOU LISTEN TO ME, FRIEND...
...I'LL CUT THE CAPTAIN STEM TO STERN IF IT COMES TO IT.
TAKE THE SHIP FOR MY OWN SELF.
THEN PAINT IT RED WITH CAMMI'S BLOOD.
DONE IT--
WOOOSH
--BEFORE...
IS THAT RIGHT?
YAAAAAAGH!

C-C-CAMMIII...
HELLLLP...

I KNOW IT HURTS. I KNOW.
HRRRRK!
GAAAAH!
BUT YOU EARNED IT, PIRATE. INCH BY INCH.
AND FOR ONCE YOU'RE DOING A KINDNESS. I NEED THAT ROTTEN SOUL OF YOURS TO REGROW MY LEGS.
CAMMI TO THE BRIDGE.
BONNG
FOUND THREE BUYERS FOR THE PLATINUM, CAPTAIN.
NEED TO DECIDE HOW FAR OFF COURSE WE'RE WILLING TO GO.
CAPTAIN?
DO YOU READ?

THERE YOU ARE.
LOOKS LIKE THE COMMS ARE ON THE FRITZ AGAIN.
LET'S SEND C-DUBS OUT TO WORK ON IT.
MAYBE HE'LL ACCIDENTALLY TUMBLE INTO THE ENDLESS VACUUM OF SPACE.
SORRY ABOUT THAT SCUFFLE, BY THE WAY.
HIS MURDEROUS RAGE AMUSES ME, BUT SOMETIMES I... OVERSHOOT...
CAPTAIN?
CAPTAIN?!
YEAH, NO, SHE'S DEAD.
KRAK
WENT OUT LIKE A CHAMP, THOUGH.
DIDN'T EVEN SCREAM WHEN HER EYEBALLS CAUGHT FIRE.
BLOM BLOM BLOM BLOM BLOM
AAAAAAAGH!

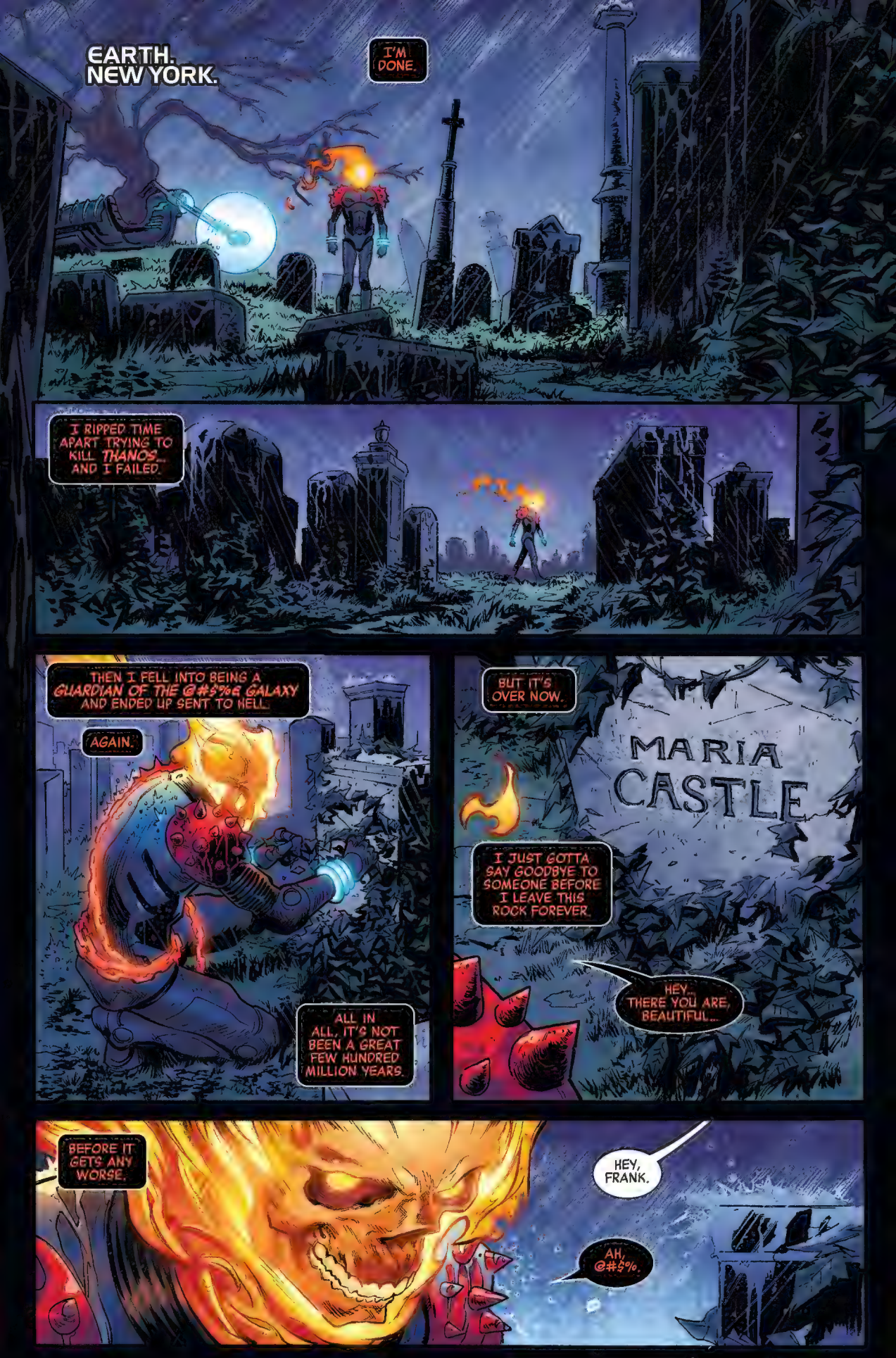
COMPUTER, LOCATE THE REST OF THE CREW!
DECEASED.
ALL OF THEM?!
AFFIRMATIVE.
COOL. COOL. COOL.
PREP ESCAPE POD ZETA.
THAT'S SOME SERIOUS SHOOTING, KID.
RESPECT.
PROBLEM IS--
BWOOM
--MINE'S THE BIGGER GUN.

LOOK AT YOU SWIMMING.
FIGHT'S OVER NOW.
ENOUGH'S ENOUGH.
QUIT YOUR SQUIRMING AND C'MERE.
DON'T WORRY, KID.
HELL'S NOT MUCH WORSE THAN ANYPLACE ELSE.
PAIN'S JUST PAIN.
NOW.
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN--

"--UP TO."
MY PENANCE STARE USUALLY REVEALS THE DARK CORNERS OF A PERSON'S SOUL.
ALL THAT EVIL WE RACK UP IN A LIFETIME.
MOST FOLKS HAVE PLENTY TO HIDE.
PLENTY TO PAY FOR.
THIS KID'S SOUL THOUGH...
WILD.

YOU'RE AN INNOCENT.
WHAT?
I DON'T PUNISH THE INNOCENT.
I AM NOT INNOCENT!
YOU'RE A LITTLE BADASS WHO KEEPS TERRIBLE COMPANY.
BUT YOU HAVE A MORAL COMPASS. YOU DO THE RIGHT THING.
I DO NOT.
LISTEN, I'VE GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY THAN A BROKEN LITTLE EARTH--
BROKEN?!
OH, YOU'RE GONNA FIND OUT ALL ABOUT BROKEN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THOSE PIRATES WERE WORKING FOR?
CAREFUL...
THE COSMIC KING, THAT'S WHO! NASTIEST THING OUT HERE SINCE THANOS. RUNS SYNDICATES IN TWENTY SYSTEMS NOW, PROBABLY MORE. YOU EITHER WORK FOR HIM OR YOU BURN FOR HIM.
AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO HIS SHIP AND CARGO, HE'S COMING. FOR ME AND YOU RIGHT AFTER. SO BUCKLE UP, BUTTERCUP, THIS IS GONNA BE A WHOLE NEW KIND OF HELL.
WELL, DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE FUN?
COMPUTER, OPEN A PORTAL TO HOTEL INFERNO.

MEPHISTO.
I HAVE A NEED.
HEY, YOU. LONG TIME NO SEE.
WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR?
FRANK CASTLE'S MORTAL SOUL.
HAHAHAHAHA!
WHAT IN THE HELL--
--COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT WITH THAT?


EARTH.
NEW YORK.
I'M DONE.
I RIPPED TIME APART TRYING TO KILL THANOS... AND I FAILED.
THEN I FELL INTO BEING A GUARDIAN OF THE @#$%& GALAXY AND ENDED UP SENT TO HELL...
AGAIN.
ALL IN ALL, IT'S NOT BEEN A GREAT FEW HUNDRED MILLION YEARS.
BUT IT'S OVER NOW.
MARIA CASTLE
I JUST GOTTA SAY GOODBYE TO SOMEONE BEFORE I LEAVE THIS ROCK FOREVER.
HEY... THERE YOU ARE, BEAUTIFUL...
BEFORE IT GETS ANY WORSE.
HEY, FRANK.
AH, @#$%.

GOT A SEC?

AH, FRANK. SO...
YOU, UH... YOU KNOW WHO I AM, THEN?
THAT'S...
OKAY...
YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND WITH THE AVENGERS SPOUTING OFF ABOUT BEING SOME KIND OF... FUTURE VERSION OF ME.
YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D HEAR ABOUT THAT?
NO. I FIGURED YOU WOULD...
IT'S JUST...
YOU'RE... UH, ACTING PRETTY CALM ABOUT IT IS ALL.
I WAS A FRANKENSTEIN ONCE.
I'M MORE OPEN-MINDED THAN I GET CREDIT FOR.
HA, THAT'S RIGHT! I FORGOT ABOUT THAT. MAN, THAT WAS...
HEHE, PRETTY FUNNY, YEAH...
RIGHT? SEE? PEOPLE SAY I'M A DUMB VERSION OF YOU, BUT THEN LIKE--
BOOM!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
AGH! WHAT THE HELL, FRANK?! THAT ACTUALLY HURTS!
CONSECRATED HELLFIRE ROUNDS.
YOU AIN'T MY FIRST GHOST RIDER.
YOU'VE ONLY HEARD HALF THE STORY, THEN.

GAHH!
BWAAAHH
YOU ONLY SURVIVED THAT BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO.
I'M A FORMER HERALD OF GALACTUS, FRANK.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE.
NOW, YOU WANNA TELL ME WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO KILL ME OR...ARE WE GONNA KEEP UP THE--
AGH!

WHAT THE...
OW, DUDE...
VIBRANIUM AND ADAMANTIUM. TENDS TO DO THE TRICK.
YOU'RE NOT INVINCIBLE.
YOU JUST NEVER FOUGHT ANYONE WHO CAN FIGHT.
STAND DOWN, FRANK. I PROMISE YOU_YOU DON'T WANT THIS.
JUST TALK TO ME, MAN! WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID!
I KINDA DON'T!
RAGH!!!

YOU...
DAMMIT, FRANK! STAY DOWN!
THIS IS... ALL YOUR FAULT...
FLICK
NO!
BOOOM

YOU...
YOU REALLY ARE AN @#$%&#, FRANK.
G-GET UP.
WHAT?
UNGH!!!
ENOUGH!!!
HEY! HEY!

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?! TELL ME!
YOU... WENT... BACK...IN TIME.
...COULD HAVE...CHANGED ANYTHING.
WHY DIDN'T... YOU...SAVE THEM?
NO... YOU...
YOU DON'T... WALK AWAY FROM ME!
ANSWER ME!!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAVE OUR FAMILY?!

...BECAUSE WE DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED TOO.
DON'T...
DON'T YOU EVER COME BACK HERE!
YOU HEAR ME?! YOU COME BACK AND YOU'RE DEAD!
DON'T WORRY.
YOU'RE DEAD!
YOU'RE...
I'M DONE.
THE END.

2

HOTEL INFERNO.
LAS VEGAS, EARTH.
PERSUASIVE =COFF= AS ALWAYS.
EVERYTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE HAS A PRICE.
EVEN A FORMER KING OF HELL LIKE YOU, MEPHISTO.
MY, HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN. IMPRISONED ON EARTH, AND IN A HOTEL OF ALL THINGS... PATHETIC.
THAT MUCH IS CERTAINLY TRUE, BUT AS I MENTIONED BEFORE--
--REPEATEDLY--
--PANDEMONIUM CONTRACT LAW ISN'T QUITE AS FLEXIBLE AS ME.
KEEP YOUR CONTRACT.
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!
TIME IS FLUID IN HELL, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE CASTLE'S SOUL YET WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DEMON--

THE COSMIC KING'S SHIP.
--I'M NOT LISTENING.
BOSSS?
THERE YOU ARE, BOSSSS.
BEEN LOOKING.
THERE'S, UH... SOME UGLY BUSINESSS DOWN ON ONE OF THE DRUG MINES.
WHERE?
HRRRK!
SPICE FIELDS OF KANDA...
SHOW ME.
WEIRD FIRE-HEAD GUY...
...DROVE DOWN AND STARTED KILLING FOOLS.
THINK IT MIGHT BE...
...THAT HUMAN YOU TALKED ABOUT...

...THINK IT'S THAT COSSSMIC GHOST RIDER...
YOU THINK RIGHT.
SQUIIIT

THE SPICE FIELDS OF KANDA.
MURDERING CARTEL CRETINS!
HAHA!!!
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!
YOU'RE A LOT MORE EXCITABLE WHEN YOUR HEAD'S ON FIRE.
GAAAAAH!
ISN'T EVERYONE?
HEH. I SUPPOSE SO.
YOU'RE NOT WRONG THOUGH.
STAY THIS WAY TOO LONG A STRETCH, HELLFIRE OVERCOOKS MY NOODLE.
FLIP SIDE IS--
--I GET A LITTLE JOY OUT OF LIFE.
ALL-BEEF FRANK DON'T LOVE NOTHING.

KILLING'S JUST A MEANS TO HIS END.
RIDER, TROUBLE ON OUR SIX.
TWO MORE SPICE TURBINES COMING IN HOT.
BWOM
I GOT IT COVERED.
CAMMI, NO.
CAMMI, YES!
WE TALKED ABOUT THIS.
YOU TALKED ABOUT THIS, MAYBE.
NO KILLING.
THERE'RE ONLY FOUR GUYS RUNNING THAT TURBINE!
YOU KILLED A THOUSAND LIKE FIVE SECONDS AGO!
MY SOUL'S NOT PURE LIKE YOURS, KID.
SO?!
SO I DIDN'T RESCUE AN INNOCENT JUST TO DRAG HER DOWN INTO THE DARK WITH ME.
THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT ME ALONG TO MURDER AN ENTIRE SPICE CARTEL, YOU PSYCHO!
GOOD POINT.

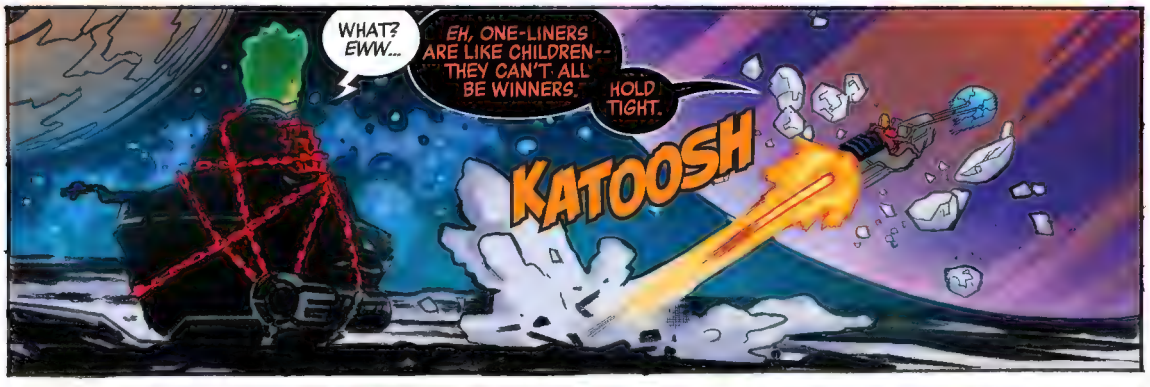
"WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN."
SHOULD'VE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT.
WOULD'VE GOTTEN TO WATCH HIM BOIL A THOUSAND TRENCH SLAVERS.
BUT NO.
I'LL JUST SIT UP HERE IN THE BORING.
AND SMELL THE BUBBLES.
THE TRENCH OF NATAL LAX.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THESE FISHY PUKES CAN HEAR ME UNDERWATER.
BUT I THINK THEY'RE CATCHING MY DRIFT.

HE'S KILLING EVERYONE, KING!
NOTHING STOPS HIM.
AND NOTHING WILL.
WHAT?!
YOU HAVE BEEN A GOOD CAPTAIN, BAKOAR.
MADE US BOTH VERY RICH. THANK YOU FOR THAT.
THANK ME?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WHO IS THIS MONSTER?!
I COULD TELL YOU, BUT WHAT WOULD IT MATTER?
YOU'RE ALREADY--
--DEAD.
HRRRGGLL!
OH, I'M SORRY, DID I INTERRUPT?

NO FINER DINER.
DELTA QUADRANT.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY GREAT AT THIS, CAMMI.
GONNA HAVE TO NARROW IT DOWN, FRANK...
...I'M GREAT AT A LOT OF THINGS.
SCOUTING. BATTLE PLANNING. WORKING THAT STAR MAP.
ALL OF IT.
COULDN'T HAVE PUNISHED HALF THIS MANY FOOLS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME WITHOUT YOU.
AND THIS DINER HERE MIGHT BE YOUR CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT.
NOBODY MAKES A BURGER THIS GOOD IN SPACE.
I'VE LOOKED.
FRANK, DON'T TURN AROUND, BUT SEVEN OF COSMIC KING'S ASSASSINS JUST WALKED IN.
THAT RIGHT?
THE THREE ON MY LEFT ARE DIE HARD. THAT'S ALL YOU.
I'LL SOFTEN UP THE HUMANOIDS.
KZZAA

THREE MINUTES LATER.
YOU COULDN'T LET ME SHOOT ONE GUY? NOT ONE?
I SUPPOSE I COULD'VE.
HAD TO KILL EVERY MURDEROUS ONE OF THEM YOURSELF. AGAIN.
THAT'S WHAT I DO, CAMMI.
BUT HEY, I BROUGHT YOU A DOGGIE BAG.
YOU SUCK.
CHOCK-FULL OF THOSE CRACK FRIES.
WHAT'S NEXT?
HOPEFULLY YOU DIE COLD AND ALONE.
TIME WILL TELL.
HEY, KING, IT'S BOSCO.
THINK I'VE GOT A BEAD ON YOUR GHOST RIDER.

THE JEMONITES HAVE CONTROLLED THIS SECTOR FOR EONS. NOBODY GETS THROUGH THE IRIM WORMHOLE WITHOUT THEIR SAY-SO.
COSMIC KING WANTS TO MOVE HIS WEAPONS AND DRUGS THROUGH, BUT THE JEMONITES WON'T LET HIM.
SO HE SET UP THAT BLOCKADE AND NOW NOTHING GETS THROUGH. INCLUDING OFF-PLANET FOOD AND SUPPLIES.
NOW THEY'RE ALL STARVING TO DEATH.
WELL THEN, LET'S GO DELIVER SOME MEAT.


WHAT? EWW...
EH, ONE-LINERS ARE LIKE CHILDREN-- THEY CAN'T ALL BE WINNERS.
HOLD TIGHT.
KATOOSH

AS IF I HAVE...
...A CHOICE...

SPACE ROCKS IN MOTION...
...TEND TO STAY THAT WAY.

PLANETSIDE.
WHY'S THE SKY ON FIRE, MOMMA?
JUST RUN, SWEETHEART!
GAAAAH!
KROOOSH
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
THE BLOCKADE... IT'S BURNING UP.
WHY?
BECAUSE THE GODS ARE GOOD, MY SWEET.
THEY'VE HEARD OUR PRAYERS--

"--AND SENT AN ANGEL HERE TO SAVE US."
NOW, I COULD JUST TORCH THE EVIL LOT OF YOU IN HELLFIRE.
BLOW UP THE SHIP AND BE DONE. BE A HELL OF A LOT QUICKER.
SQUIT
BUT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN--
FOOOSH
--A GUY NEEDS TO GET A LITTLE BLOOD ON HIM.

FRANK THINKS I'M SO PURE.
LIKE EARTH GIRLS ARE MADE OUT OF CANDY AND BUBBLEGUM.
BUT I AM *NOT* PURE.
I SURVIVED THE *ANNIHILATION WAVE* AT 10 YEARS OLD.
I WON A DAMNED DEATH MATCH AT 14.
I'M CAMMI @#$% BENALLY.
AND IT'S *MY TURN* TO PUNISH SOMEBODY.

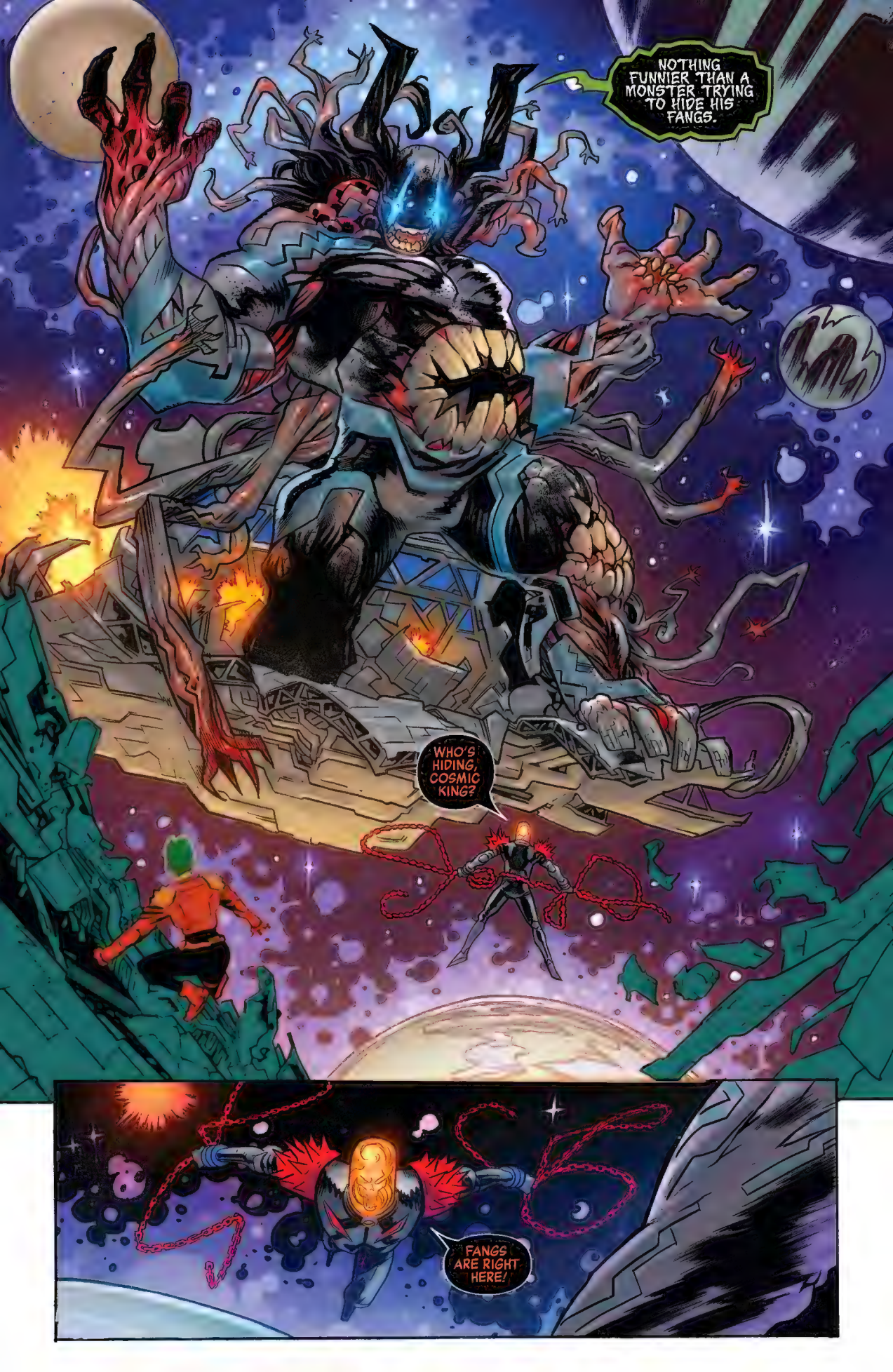
RABEARD BLOCKADE FRIGATE.
HE'S EATING US ALIVE, KING!
GET HERE QUICK OR THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT TO SAVE!
YOU MISTAKE MY INTENTIONS, CAPTAIN.
MINE IS NOT A RESCUE MISSION.
IF YOU WANT TO BE SAVED...
...SAVE YOURSELF.
TOOOM
SO I SPENT TWO AND A HALF CYCLES ON A GARDENIAN LABOR FARM...
...WORKING OFF SOME GAMBLING DEBT...
MY BUNKMATE MARLA NEVER COULD SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT ON ACCOUNT OF SOME RABEARD FRIGATE CAPTAIN AND WHAT HE USED TO DO TO HER...
NOW, I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF YOU'RE THE EXACT SAME RABEARD FRIGATE CAPTAIN--
WHAT?!
--BUT CLOSE ENOUGH IS CLOSE ENOUGH.

KA-TOOOSH
DAMMIT, FRANK!
YOU JUST CAME DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO KILLING THAT GUY, CAMMI.
I HAD HIM DEAD TO RIGHTS!
ZAAT
YOU SELF-RIGHTEOUS!
ZAAAT
HYPOCRITICAL!
ZAAAT
LUNATIC!
I SAW.
SKROOSH
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF KILL-BLOCKING ME?!
EVERY SINGLE TIME!

LEAVE ME CHAINED TO THE SIDECAR! LIKE SOME KIND OF PUPPY!
SO OBSESSED WITH MY SUPPOSEDLY SPOTLESS SOUL, WHEN YOUR OWN UNDEAD MURDER GOBLIN SOUL--
--HAS TO BE A FESTERING GANGRENOUS PUS BALL.
AND BY THE WAY, YOUR WHOLE PLAN? YOUR WHOLE MISSION?
IS NONSENSE.
PUNISHING INTERGALACTIC EVIL. PROTECTING MY INNOCENCE.
NONE OF IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE.
YOU'RE THE PUNISHER. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE PUNISHER!
THERE'S NO COMING BACK FROM THAT, FRANK.
THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT, KID?
CONTRACT I SIGNED SAYS AS MUCH.
I CAN'T EVER ATONE. CAN'T MAKE AMENDS.
AND AFTER 1,000 YEARS OF OBSESSIVELY PUNISHING THE GUILTY, ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU FOR SURE...
TRUE INNOCENCE IS RARE.
AND REAL DAMNED DELICATE.
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
DON'T EVEN GET TO BURN FOR MY SINS. MUCH AS I DESERVE IT.
I SOLD MY SOUL FOR A FEW MORE PULLS OF THE TRIGGER.
HAVING NO IDEA WHAT FOREVER REALLY MEANT.

SORRY.
I WAS GONNA LET YOU FINISH, BUT COME ON...
F-FRANK.
FRANK, THAT'S HIM.

BUT FRANK CASTLE WAXING POETIC ABOUT PROTECTING THE INNOCENT?
THAT'S HILARIOUS.
NYYAAAAARRK!


NOTHING FUNNIER THAN A MONSTER TRYING TO HIDE HIS FANGS.
WHO'S HIDING, COSMIC KING?
FANGS ARE RIGHT HERE!

TRUE INNOCENCE?!
HA!
HEY!
HEY! NO!
MUST BE A LOW BAR IF THIS MEAN LITTLE PIRATE CLEARS IT.
LET! HER! GO!
YEAH, OKAY.
FRAAAANNNK!

WAAGH! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS?!
HELLLP MEEEE!
CAAAMMI!!!

3

THEN.
I CAN'T RECALL MY LITTLE GIRL LISA'S FACE.
NOT REALLY. NOT ANYMORE.
TIME DOES TERRIBLE THINGS TO A MAN.
STEALS AWAY THE DETAILS. BIT BY BIT.
I'VE LIVED SO MANY LIFETIMES SINCE THAT GODFORSAKEN PARK.
THE DAY THAT MADE ME WHAT I AM. THAT SET ME ON THIS PATH.
MOST OF IT IS LONG GONE.
COULDN'T TELL YOU WHAT I WAS THINKING, HUNKERED BEHIND THAT TREE.
WAS IT EVEN A TREE?
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT LISA WAS SCREAMING AT ME.
DYING AND DESPERATE. HER MOM AND BROTHER ALREADY GONE.
BUT I'LL NEVER EVER FORGET WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE--
--WHEN HER SCREAMING STOPPED.

NOW.
DEAD, HOLLOW SILENCE.
LIKE THE VACUUM OF SPACE.
FRAAAANK!
NO! NO! NO!
HELLLLP!
MEEAAAGGHH!
OH, I'M SORRY. WAS THAT YOURS?
CAAAMMI!
MURDEROUS RAGE ISN'T HOT LIKE PEOPLE SAY.
IT'S ICE WATER.
POURING IN TO FILL THE VOID.

TOOOM
I'D FORGOTTEN THAT TOO.
UH-OH. I'VE MADE HIM MAD.
THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER'S COMING TO GET ME.
WHATEVER WILL I DO?
YOU'LL BURN.
PROMISE?

EXERTING POWER IS FUN, ISN'T IT?
DESTROYING MY LITTLE EMPIRE, BIT BY BIT.
BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD.
BECAUSE YOU CAN.
NEVER ONCE CONSIDERING...
THOSE ARE THE SAME REASONS--
--I BUILT THE DAMNED THING TO BEGIN WITH.
RUUUUN!

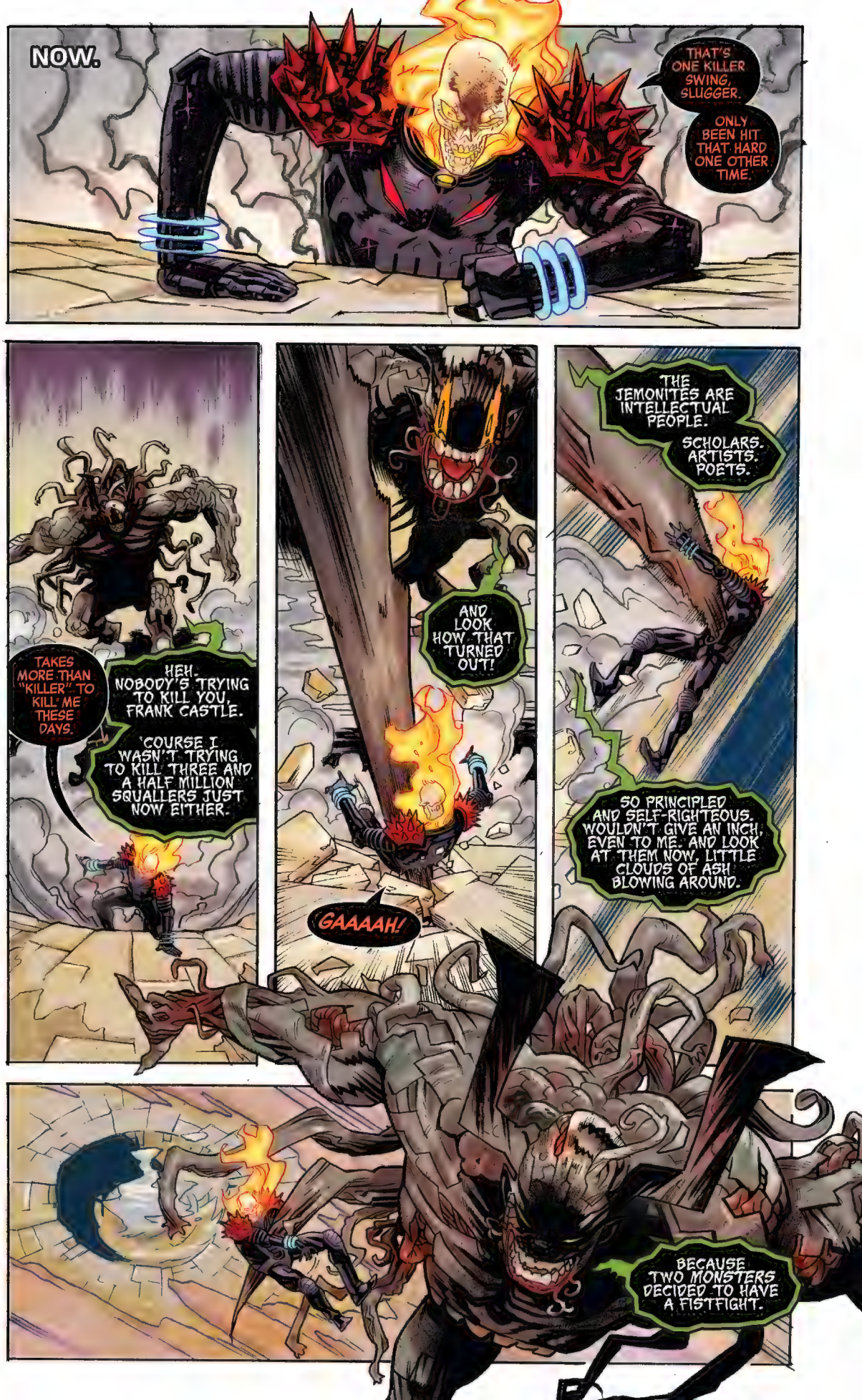
TOOOOOM

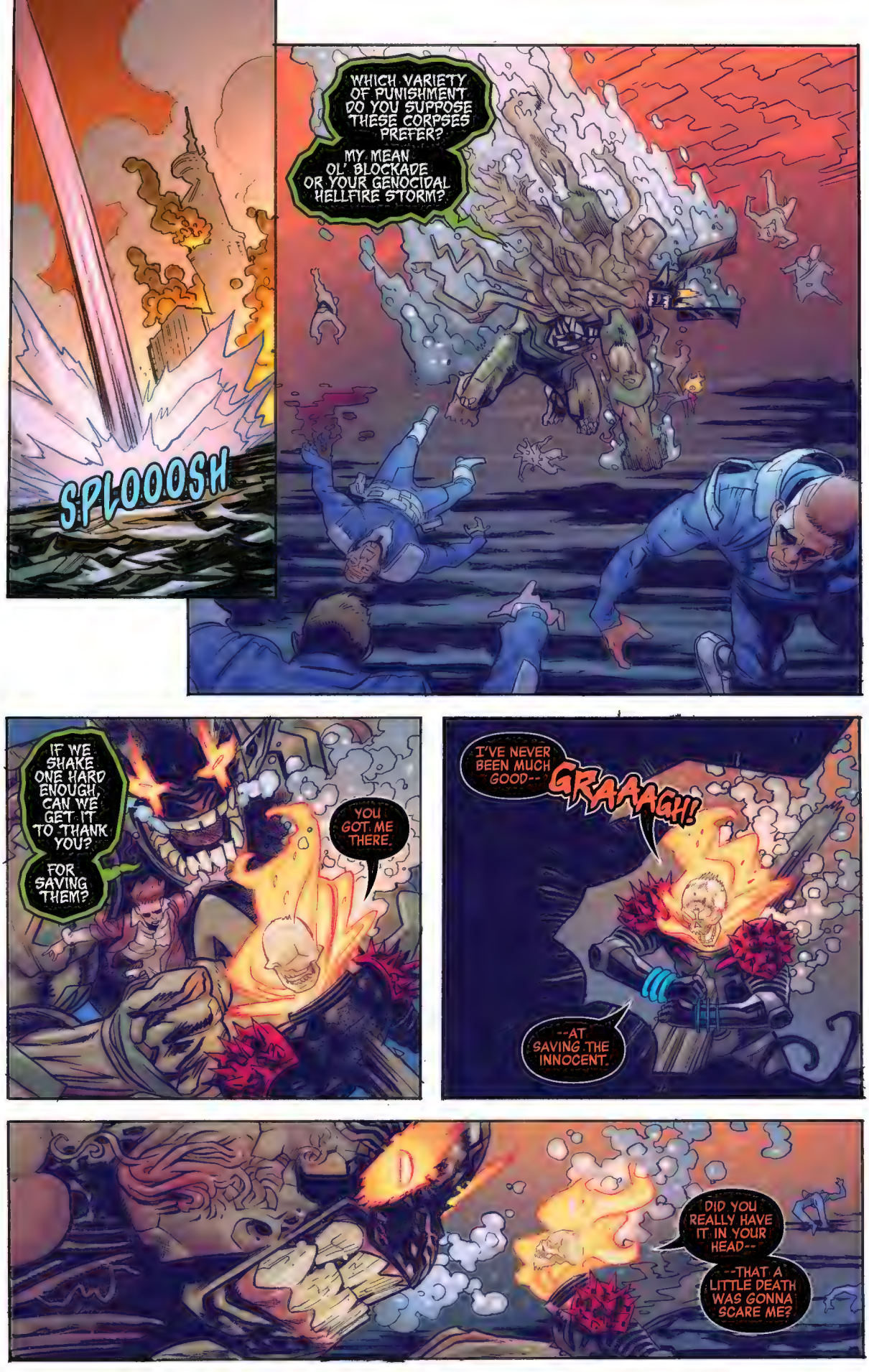
FOOOOSH

THEN.
UGH...
WHERE IN HELL AM I?
RIGHT NEAR THE MIDDLE.
PANDEMONIUM, TO BE EXACT.
BIG CITY ARCHITECTURE. SMALL TOWN TORTURE PITS.
AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WHAT?
THE DEVIL?
A DEVIL ANYWAY.
MEPHISTO'S THE NAME.

NOBODY CALLS ME THE SOUL MAN, BUT THEY CERTAINLY SHOULD.
AND THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU'RE LOOKING TO MAKE A DEAL FOR YOURS.
AM I?
FRANCIS "FRANK" CASTLE. CAUSE OF DEATH, MASSIVE BRAIN HEMORRHAGE FOLLOWING BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA.
LAST WORDS ON EARTH, AND I QUOTE, "I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO PUNISH THAT PURPLE SONOFABITCH..."
AS LAST WORDS GO, PRETTY ENTERTAINING. QUESTION IS, WHAT DID YOU MEAN--
--BY "ANYTHING"?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT OUT LOUD.
YES, WELL...
YOU'LL FIND MOST LAST WORDS GO UNSPOKEN. DEATH CAN BE RATHER DISTRACTING.
HUH...
YOU, SIR, ARE DELIGHTFULLY DIFFICULT TO IMPRESS.
LET ME LAY IT OUT. YOU'VE MURDERED SO MANY PEOPLE THAT THE WORLD GAVE YOU A SCARY NICKNAME.
STICK AROUND HERE AND THE TORTURE YOU'VE GOT COMING WILL BE SLOW AND DELIBERATE. CREATIVE EVEN. LIFETIMES OF UNIMAGINABLE PAIN.
BUT THERE IS *ANOTHER* OPTION.

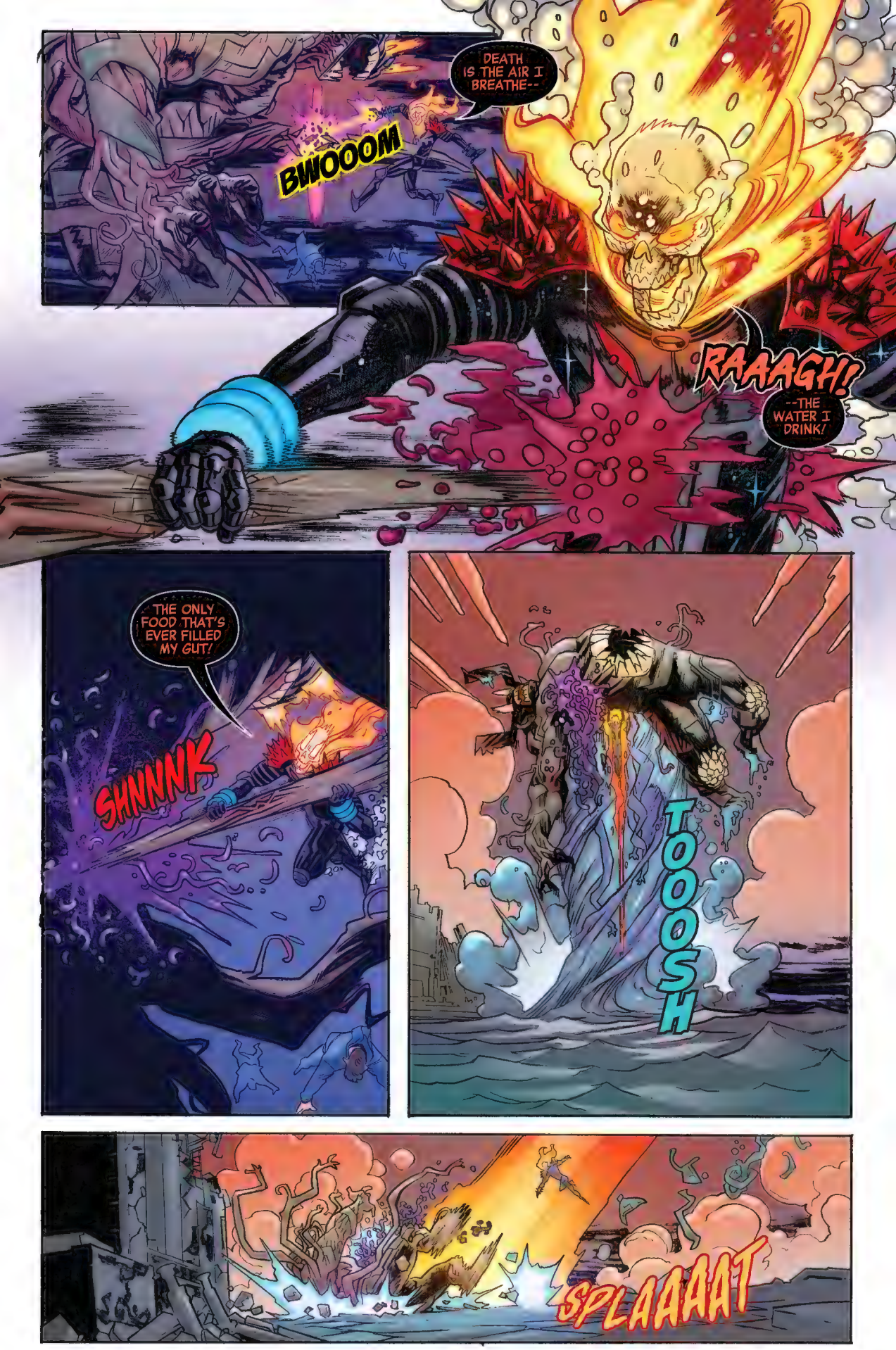
A SINGLE CHIP... LEFT...
...UNPLAYED.
GOOD GOD, MAN.
WHAT CHIP?
WHAT'RE YOU ON ABOUT?
YOUR LIFE, IT'S...
I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE EVER SEEN A MORTAL EXISTENCE SO...
$%@ DEPRESSING.
LISTEN, I'M SUPPOSED TO MAKE THIS OFFER. IT'S USUALLY A PRETTY GOOD ONE. RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING AS THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, SELL YOUR SOUL. GHOST RIDER... YADA, YADA, YADA.
BUT CONSIDERING YOUR LIFE ON EARTH. THE OBSESSION. THE LONELINESS.
I DUNNO, MAN. YOU MIGHT WANNA CHOOSE THE--
I'LL TAKE THE DEAL, DEMON.
NOW SHUT UP AND SEND ME BACK.


NOW.
THAT'S ONE KILLER SWING, SLUGGER.
ONLY BEEN HIT THAT HARD ONE OTHER TIME.
TAKES MORE THAN "KILLER" TO KILL ME THESE DAYS.
HEH. NOBODY'S TRYING TO KILL YOU, FRANK CASTLE.
'COURSE I WASN'T TRYING TO KILL THREE AND A HALF MILLION SQUALLERS JUST NOW EITHER.
AND LOOK HOW THAT TURNED OUT!
GAAAAH!
THE JEMONITES ARE INTELLECTUAL PEOPLE.
SCHOLARS. ARTISTS. POETS.
SO PRINCIPLED AND SELF-RIGHTEOUS. WOULDN'T GIVE AN INCH, EVEN TO ME. AND LOOK AT THEM NOW, LITTLE CLOUDS OF ASH BLOWING AROUND.
BECAUSE TWO MONSTERS DECIDED TO HAVE A FISTFIGHT.


SPLOOOSH
WHICH VARIETY OF PUNISHMENT DO YOU SUPPOSE THESE CORPSES PREFER?
MY MEAN OL' BLOCKADE OR YOUR GENOCIDAL HELLFIRE STORM?
IF WE SHAKE ONE HARD ENOUGH, CAN WE GET IT TO THANK YOU?
FOR SAVING THEM?
YOU GOT ME THERE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH GOOD--
GRAAAGH!
--AT SAVING THE INNOCENT.
DID YOU REALLY HAVE IT IN YOUR HEAD--
--THAT A LITTLE DEATH WAS GONNA SCARE ME?

"I SPENT THREE NIGHTS ALONE IN THE JUNGLE.
"BEFORE I WAS EVEN OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK.
"BURIED TO THE WAIST IN THE WET REMAINS OF FRIENDS AND ENEMIES.
"YOU GET USED TO THE SMELL.
"IT'S THE MOSQUITOS THAT DRIVE YOU CRAZY.
"NEWSPAPER ONCE CALLED ME THE MOST PROLIFIC MASS MURDERER IN HUMAN HISTORY.
"BECAUSE I DID ALL OF MY KILLING WITHOUT THE AID OF AN ARMY...
"...OR A BOMB.

"I WATCHED MY WORLD FALL FROM THE FRONT LINES.
"STOMPED THROUGH THE BLOOD OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
"AND STARED INTO THE MAD TITAN'S COLD, DEAD EYES LONGER THAN ANY CREATURE WHO EVER LIVED.
"I CIRCLED MY PLANET'S DUSTY CORPSE FOR TEN LIFETIMES.
"THEN SOLD IT TO A DESPERATE GOD.
"FOR ONE MORE SHOT AT KILLING."


DEATH IS THE AIR I BREATHE--
BWOOOM
RAAAGH!
--THE WATER I DRINK!
THE ONLY FOOD THAT'S EVER FILLED MY GUT!
SHNNNK
TOOOSH
SPLAAAAT

SO PLEASE SPARE ME YOUR SCARY VILLAIN SPEECH.
BACK ATCHA, FRANK.
YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS SOME UNSTOPPABLE DEATH BRINGER.
BUT WHEN I HEAR YOUR STORIES--
--WHAT STICKS WITH ME--
SPLAAT
--IS ALL THE FAILURE.

YOU COULDN'T WIN YOUR WAR.
OR SAVE YOUR FAMILY.
SPENT YOUR WHOLE LIFE FIGHTING CRIME.
ONLY TO WATCH IT RISE.

COULDN'T HELP YOUR HEROES.
OR SAVE YOUR PLANET.
AND THANOS?
WELL...
WE BOTH KNOW WHY. THAT WALKING DEATH WISH LET YOU LOOK HIM IN THE EYES.
ONLY THING THAT EVER SURVIVES YOU--
--IS YOU.

=KOFF= YEAH. =KOFF=
TELL ME SOMETHING--
--I DON'T KNOW!

FAIR POINTS ALL AROUND.
I FIGURED OUT A LONG TIME AGO...
...THERE IS NO WINNING.
EVIL NEVER STOPS. NEVER GOES AWAY.
ALL YOU CAN DO IS FIGHT YOUR FIGHT.
AND HOPE SOMEBODY PUTS YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY--
--BEFORE YOU'VE DONE MORE HARM THAN GOOD.
I'M NOT TAKING YOU OUT TO SAVE THE GALAXY, COSMIC KING.
I'M DOING IT BECAUSE YOU SUCK.
BECAUSE I'M BROKEN.

AND BECAUSE WHAT THE HELL ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH ETERNITY?
NOW STOP SNIVELING AND TAKE THIS LIKE A MAN.
OKAY.
YOU WIN.
I HEAR YOU.
BUT WHAT IF THERE WAS A WAY... FOR ETERNITY TO END?
WHERE...
...DID YOU GET--
--MY SOUL?
RIGHT WHERE YOU LEFT IT.
AND IT'S YOURS AGAIN, ALONG WITH ALL THE PERKS.
PAIN. MORTALITY. DEATH.
TAKE IT.
MY LIFE FOR YOURS.

DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE.
HAHAHAHAHA!
COSMIC KING'S OVER THERE LAUGHING AT ME.
COULDN'T CARE LESS.
WHATEVER MURDEROUS THING HE'S GOT PLANNED--
AHEM.
PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, FRANK.
--I WELCOME IT.

4

EMRY? IS IT DONE? IS IT DONE? IS IT DONE?!
ARISIA... DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME WHILE I'M TRYING TO STICK THIS LAST PIECE.
LISTEN, I UNDERSTAND YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THESE ALIEN KIDS ARE.
BUT YOU'LL FIND OUT AND THIS IS WHERE MY PART OF THE STORY JUMPS OFF.
EGO LIVES! 26,375 BRICKS!
WE DID IT! WE DID IT! WE DID IT!
I DID IT.
SO DEAL WITH IT.
LIKE I DID.
WHAT?!
THE ACTUAL?!
@#$ @#$?!
FLMMMP
GAAAAH!

EMRY! I'M SCARED! WHAT IS IT?!
WE SHOULD GO GET DADDY.
NO. SHUT UP. DAD'LL JUST KILL IT.

DON'T WE WANT DADDY TO KILL IT?
NOPE. NO WE DON'T.
=GASP= IT TALKS!

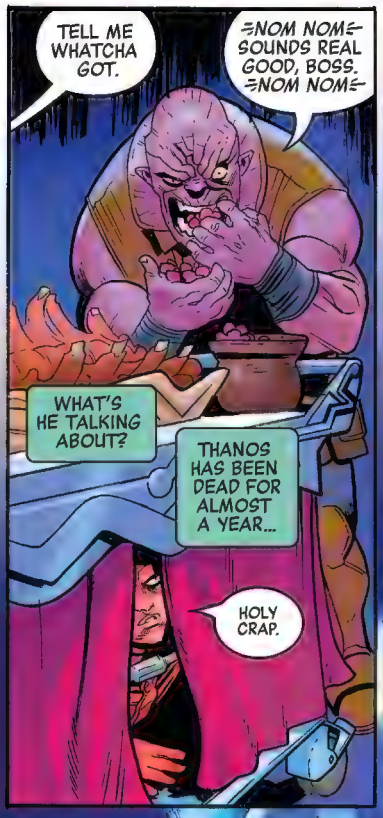
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU KIDS TO KEEP QUIET IN HERE?!
OKAY, SEE, THAT'S THE COSMIC KING. BIG BAD MOB BOSS WHO THREW ME THROUGH A WORMHOLE TWO MINUTES AGO BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO PISS OFF COSMIC GHOST RIDER.
IT SOUNDS LIKE THE ANNIHILATION WAVE'S CRASHING THROUGH HERE!
DAD HAS AN IMPORTANT MEETING TODAY!
WHICH WOULD MAKE THESE HIS CHILDREN.

WHAT EVEN WAS THAT RACKET?!
N-NOTHING, DADDY.
WE WERE JUST UM...SMASHING MY EGO MODEL TO BITS.
HOW IS HE HERE WHEN A BIG MONSTERED-UP VERSION HAS TO BE BACK FIGHTING FRANK?

HOW DID I SURVIVE AN OPEN-SPACE WORMHOLE VIVISECTION?
DUNNO.
BUT HIS KIDS ARE TERRIBLE LIARS AND CAMMI NEEDS TO PHONE THE EFF HOME.

PSST. CUTE ALIEN THING... WHERE'D YOU GO.
HERE. SHE WAS RIGHT HERE.
SORRY, KID, I TOTALLY WAS.
BUT THIS E.T.'S REAL STEALTHY.
AND SHE'S GOT BUSINESS WITH DADDY.
SWANK DIGS, KING.
VERY VEGAS MOB MEETS GEORGE JETSON.
WE'RE ABOUT TO BE LATE. HE HATESSSS IT WHEN THINGSSSS ARE LATE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? NATAL LAX TRENCH SLUGSSSS HAVE TO SSSIMMER.
YOU TELL HIM THAT.
SSSEEE WHAT HAPPENSSS.
SHFF

TWO WORDS.
POWER. VACUUM.
THE MAD TITAN WAS BEHEADED THREE DAYS AGO, WHICH MAKES US THREE DAYS LATE SCOOPING UP THAT ACTION.
I WANNA SEE STAR MAPS. I WANNA HEAR PLANS.


TELL ME WHATCHA GOT.
=NOM NOM= SOUNDS REAL GOOD, BOSS. =NOM NOM=
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
THANOS HAS BEEN DEAD FOR ALMOST A YEAR...
HOLY CRAP.

THAT #$% WORMHOLE KNOCKED ME BACK IN TIME.
DID I STUTTER?!
PLANS! NOW!
TOOM
THIS IS MONTHS AGO. BEFORE COSMIC KING GOT BIG.

RIGHT, WELL...WE UM...FIGURED THIS MEETING WAS FOR... YOU KNOW... PLANNING ALL THAT.
CAME TO HEAR YOUR PLANS, BOSS.

MY PLANS? YOU WANNA HEAR MY PLANS?
I PLAN TO EAT THE WHOLE GALAXY IN A SINGLE BITE.
REPLACE THANOS SO FAST--SO COMPLETELY--
--THAT MY PRETTY FACE TURNS ALL PURPLE.
WHICH MEANS TIME IS ON MY SIDE FOR ONCE.

I CAN GO BACK.
MAYBE IT CRAWLED OUT THE--
IT'S GONE, ARISIA. IT BROKE MY STUPID EGO AND WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO PLAY WITH IT.
YEAH, BUT IT HAS TO STILL--
JUST SHUT UP. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
OKAY, LISTEN, I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME HERE, SO WE'LL CUT TO THE CHASE.
TOLD YA IT WOULD COME BACK.
I COME FROM THE FUTURE.
YOUR DAD IS ABOUT TO HAVE A BIG-TIME COSMIC VILLAIN GLOW UP...
...WHERE HE BECOMES THE SCARIEST THING IN THE UNIVERSE THAT CARES ABOUT BEING SCARY.
WHICH IS PROBABLY GONNA BE AWESOME FOR YOU TWO.
BECAUSE IF THIS IS YOUR PLAYROOM NOW, JUST IMAGINE WHAT THE CAPITAL C COSMIC KING WILL THROW DOWN.
BUT IT'S NOT SO GREAT FOR ME PERSONALLY AND I'M HOPING YOU KIDS COULD HELP ME GET OFF-WORLD REAL QUICK.
ON THE DL.
IT'S SO WEIRD AND COOL!
I LOVE IT WHEN SHE TALKS. DON'T YOU LOVE HOW SHE TALKS?
DON'T CARE. I WANNA PLAY WITH HER!
GOOD GOD.
C'MERE, WEIRD SPACE THING! EMRY WON'T HURT YA.
ME NEXT! ME NEXT! ME NEXT!
LOOK, I TOOK A SHOT.
SOME KIDS ARE SMART.

SOME ARE FREAKISHLY STRONG.
QUESTION IS, DO I MURDER THEM BOTH NOW?
REGAIN SOME SELF-RESPECT AND TRY TO GET OFF-PLANET SOLO?
OWW!
GIMME!
OR PLAY PUPPY FOR A LITTLE WHILE--
--AND HOPE THEY E.T. ME ON OUT OF HERE IN A FEW DAYS?
KICK
AWW...LOOK AT HER CUTE LITTLE FACEY WACEY!
I'M LEANING TOWARD MURDER.

ANNND... I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
REEAAAK!
TOOOSH
REEAAAK!
WELL, THERE'S THE OTHER SHOE DROPPING.

RIGHT NOW IS WHEN MY FRIEND FRANK WOULD SPIT A BAD PUN ABOUT PUPPIES AND TEETH.
KA CHUK
BUT I HAVE BETTER IMPULSE CONTROL THAN HIM SO...
WOOF WOOF, YOU HIDEOUS @#$%!
SPACE THING'S A BADASS.
RIGHT?
DIE SCREAMING AND FULL OF HOLES!
FOOOSH
FOOOSH
FOOOSH
THIS IS MOSTLY FOR SHOW.
AN INTERGALACTIC TAPEWORM IS A THING YOU SHOULD RUN AWAY FROM...
BUT I NEED THESE KIDS TO NEED ME.
OKAY, IT'S PROBABLY GONNA DO SOMETHING REAL SCARY NOW, SO GET YOURSELVES READY TO--

RUN!
SEE? REAL SCARY.
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.
COSMIC KING'S REVENGE BODY DIDN'T COME FROM THE GYM.
IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE TO GET IN THE WAY...
...HE'D BE HOSTING THIS IMPOSSIBLY ANCIENT SPACE DEMON PARASITE.
THIS HIGHLIGHT REEL OF PAST HOSTS--
--KILLERS AND CONQUERORS. FORGOTTEN MONSTERS WHO LEFT NOTHING ALIVE TO REMEMBER THEM--
--WOULD BE ROASTING HIS EYEBALLS. NOT MINE.
WHICH MAKES YOU WONDER, DID THE MAN THROW ME BACK IN TIME?
OR WAS IT THE MONSTER?

IT'S BORING INTO MY MIND LIKE ONE OF THOSE GAS-POWERED POST-HOLE DIGGERS.

ROOTING OUT THE WORST OF ME. FORCE-FEEDING IT WHATEVER THAT TERRIBLE POWER IS.

ALL MY RAGE, RESENTMENT AND BITTERNESS. ALL MY PETTY @#$%&.

GROWING AND SPREADING AND BURNING THROUGH ME.

REPLACING EVERYTHING ELSE.

I WAS GONNA SAY IT HURTS, BUT NOW...

...IT FEELS KINDA GOOD--

--FRANK?

OH GOD.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE KING.

IT'S ABOUT YOU.

AN ANCIENT PARASITE OLDER THAN THIS UNIVERSE AND THE ONE BEFORE IT--

--WANTS YOU MORE THAN IT HAS EVER WANTED ANYTHING. YOUR DARKNESS. YOUR POWER.

BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE YOU. IT COULDN'T MERGE... NOT WITHOUT YOUR SOUL.

YOU'RE THE BIG FISH, FRANK.

I'M JUST BAIT.

ENOUGH!
TOOOM!
TOOOM!
DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT'S YOUR DAMAGE!
GAAH!
BUT I'LL TELL YA!
HUAGH!
I'D THANK COSMIC KING FOR THE SAVE, BUT HE DOES TRY TO KILL ME LATER...
...SO I FEEL LIKE WE'RE EVEN.
YOU PICKED THE WRONG HOUSE!
ON THE WRONG DAY!
KIDS, GET YOUR BUTTS OUTSIDE!
DAD DOESN'T WANT YOU DROWNING IN THIS CREEP'S GORE!
C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!
WUH?!
DADDY!

WHAT WAS THAT THING?!
WHAT IS HAPPENING?!
CLIFF NOTES--
--YOUR OLD MAN IS FIGHTING TO KEEP PURE EVIL FROM DEVOURING HIS SOUL.
WHAAT?!
YEAH, WHAT'S MORE IMPRESSIVE...
...IS THAT HE SEEMS TO BE HOLDING HIS OWN.

IS DAD GONNA WIN?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
KRAAAK

THAT THING BLEW COSMIC GHOST RIDER OUT LIKE A BIRTHDAY CANDLE. DADDY'S SOUL IS DONE FOR.
HEY! THAT'S MY JETPACK!
AND IF I DON'T GO WARN MY FRIEND RIGHT QUICK--

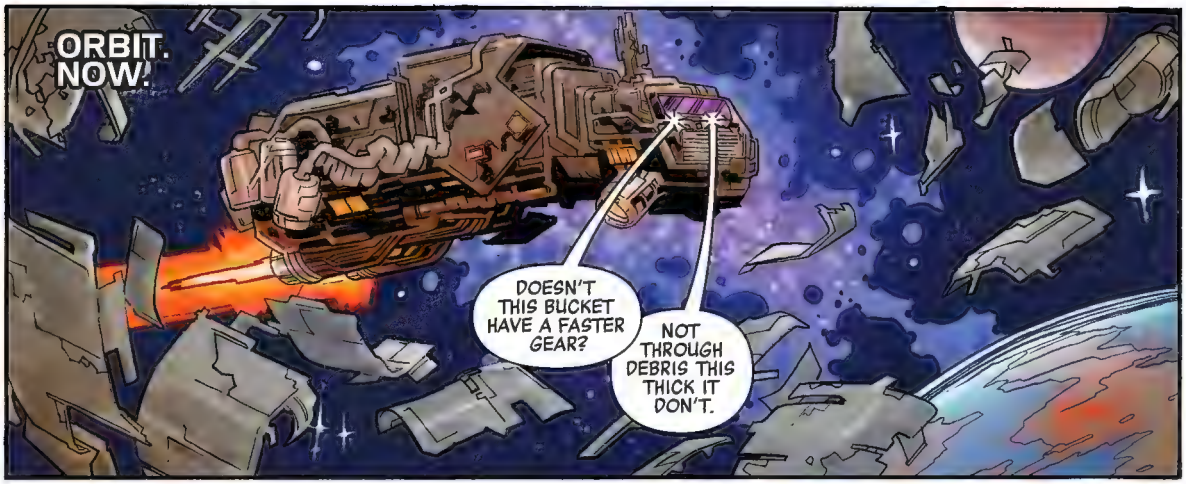
--SO IS THE WHOLE DAMNED GALAXY.
YOU'RE LEAVING US?!
I MEAN...I'M LEAVING...

...NOT EVERYTHING IS ABOUT YOU, KID.
B-B-BUT...
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!

WHATEVER. COSMIC KING'S THEIR DAD.
IF HE'S GONNA SPARE ANY TWO CREATURES ON THAT PLANET, IT'LL BE THEM.
BESIDES--

--I'M IN A REAL SECURE-YOUR-OWN-OXYGEN-MASK-BEFORE-HELPING-OTHERS PLACE RIGHT NOW.
IF I DON'T SAVE MY OWN BUTT...
...IF I CAN'T STOP FRANK FROM TAKING HIS SOUL BACK...
...THEN THAT TAPEWORM IS GONNA HAVE HIS POWER COSMIC, AND WE'RE ALL BURNT TOAST.
LEEEAVING SO SOON, CAMMI?
OH #$% OFF.
LEMME--
--GOOOOO!
ANOTHER WORMHOLE.
THAT'S NO COINCIDENCE.

BACK ON THE RUINS OF SQUAL. NOW.
HUH.
TOTALLY FORGOT WHAT IT FEELS LIKE.
HAVING A SOUL?
MM-HMM.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
=SNIIIIFF=
SURE. THANKS.
OH, IT'S MY ABSOLUTE--
--PLEASURE.
PLAYING POSSUM, HUH?
FIGURED AS MUCH.


ORBIT. NOW.
DOESN'T THIS BUCKET HAVE A FASTER GEAR?
NOT THROUGH DEBRIS THIS THICK IT DON'T.

YOU'RE TELLING ME IT TOOK SEVEN MONTHS TO BEG, BORROW AND STEAL MY WAY BACK HERE AND NOW I'M GONNA BE TOO LATE TO FIX IT BECAUSE SOME TRUCKER'S WORRIED ABOUT HIS @#$% PAINT JOB?!
CAMMI...I'VE ASKED YOU TO STOP CALLING ME "SOME TRUCKER."
YEAH, WELL, IT'S BEEN A DISAPPOINTING DAY FOR US BOTH.

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, MORN.

=SIGH=
TEENAGERS.

C'MON! C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT THAT STUPID, FRANK.
PLEASE TELL ME I'M--

NOT!
TOO!
LATE!
CAMMI?!
HOW IN HELL ARE YOU ALIVE?
=COUGH= BAD LUCK.
SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, KID. THOUGHT FOR SURE I'D LOST YOU.
AND I THOUGHT AN ANCIENT SPACE DEMON WOULD BE WEARING YOUR LEATHERY HIDE LIKE A MEAT SUIT.
HEH. WAS THAT HIS PLAN?
KING WAS JUST A HOST. THE EVIL INSIDE HIM WANTED YOUR POWER COSMIC. NEEDED YOU WHOLE AGAIN TO GET AT IT.
S'POSE THAT TRACKS.
HE GAVE YOUR SOUL BACK. ENDED YOUR CURSE. AND YOU MURDERED HIM ANYWAY.
SOUL. NO SOUL.
THAT'S AN EVIL SACK OF @#$%.
YEAH.
AND I'M THE GODDAMNED PUNISHER.
ABOUT THAT...

THE SOUL YOU'RE WEARING IS UNLAWFULLY OBTAINED PROPERTY OF PANDEMONIUM.
WHICH PUTS YOU IN BREACH OF CONTRACT, CASTLE.
WE HAD A DEAL. YOU GOT YOUR ETERNITY OF VENGEANCE.
SOMEBODY OWES ME A SOUL.
I GAVE IT. YOU LOST IT.
FINDERS KEEPERS, DEMON.
YOU WANT MY SOUL BACK, COME AND GET IT.
I'M NOT AN UNREASONABLE FELLOW, FRANK.
AND I'M NOT SPOILING FOR A FIGHT WITH A SOCIOPATHIC HERALD OF GALACTUS EITHER.
THE CONTRACT DOESN'T EXPLICITLY STATE WHOSE SOUL I HAVE TO TAKE.
SO LONG AS I GET A SOUL.
F-FRANK...
YEAH, THAT'S NOT GOOD.

WHAT?
NO!
HERE'S ONE THAT WILL DO--
FRANNNK!
--NICELY.
STOP IT!
NO.
CAMMI?
HELP MEEEE!
PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

5

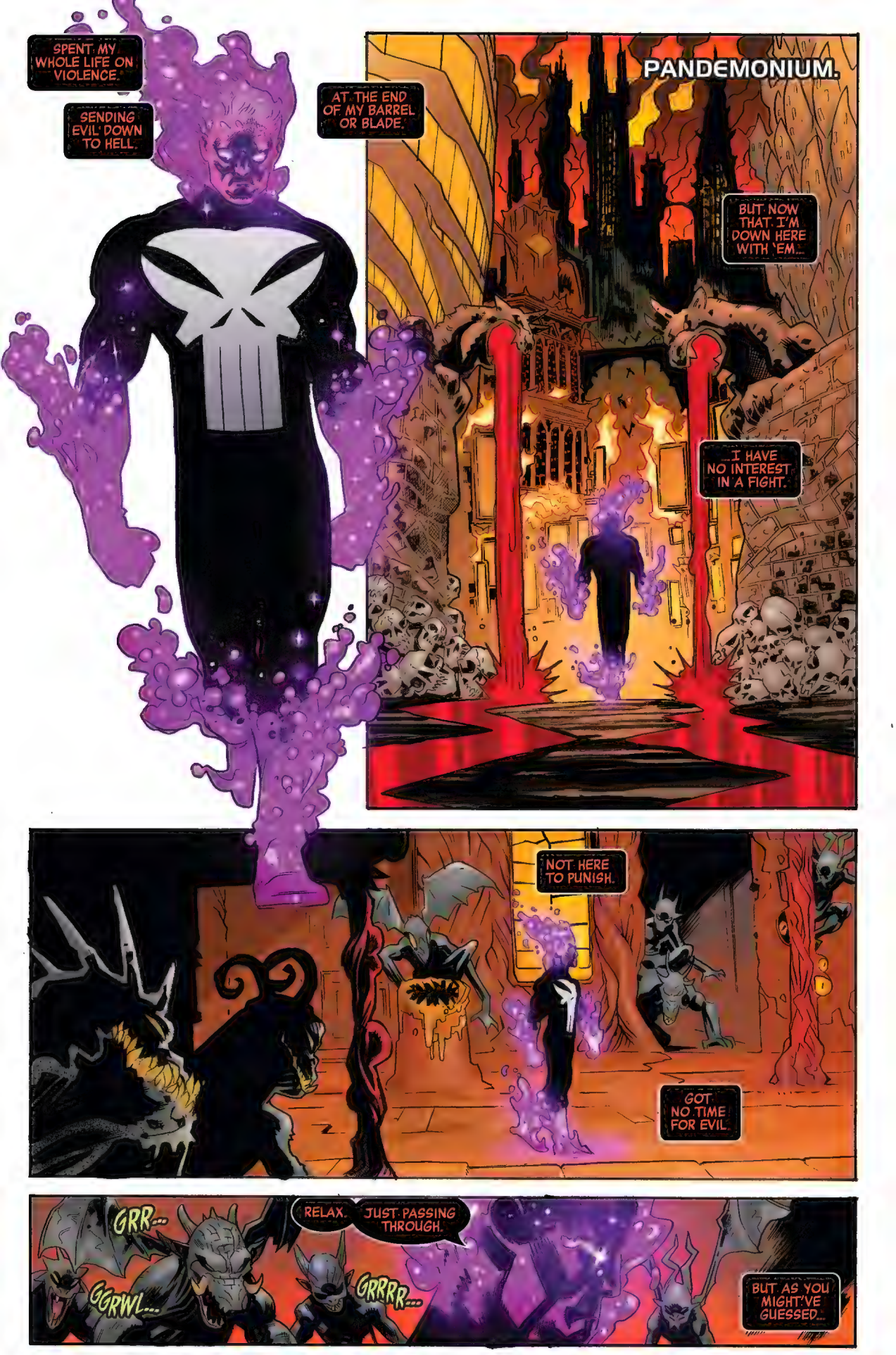
NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME TO TRY TO GET MY OWN SOUL BACK.
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
NOOOOO!
ALWAYS IS.
BUT I SURE AS HELL TOOK THE DAMNED THING WHEN COSMIC KING OFFERED IT UP.
AND THERE'S CAMMI, PAYING MY PRICE.
FRAAANK!
DON'T WASTE YOUR ECTOPLASM, KID.
GAAAAAAH!
YOUR BOY IS MORTAL NOW.

CAMMI!
GHOST RIDERS MAKE HELLFIRE LOOK COOL.
HUMAN BEINGS JUST BURN.
HE'S FRANK CASTLE!
DID YOU THINK BURNING WAS GONNA STOP HIM?!
I DID... BUT IT'S NOT MY SKIN IN THE GAME.
LET THE CHIPS FALL AS THEY MAY.
BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I FELT LIKE THIS.
SEARING PAIN.
BRINK OF DEATH.
THAT STUBBORN SURVIVAL INSTINCT KEEPING ME CONSCIOUS.

REMINDING ME I GOT ONE LAST BULLET--
--LEFT IN THE CHAMBER.
THAT POWER COSMIC PACKS A WALLOP.

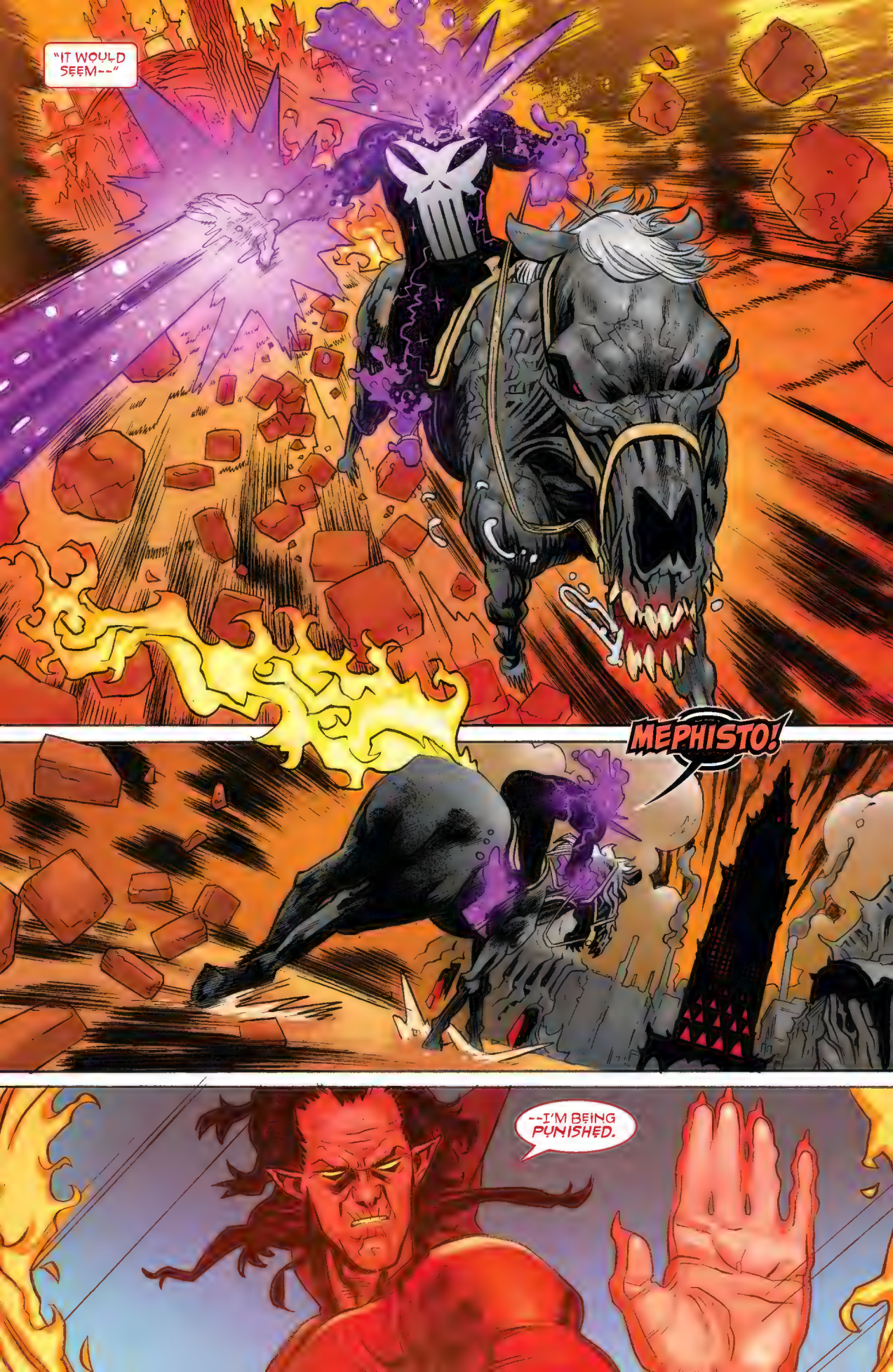
SO WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO NOW? TORTURE ME?
YOU ARE AN INNOCENT CHILD. WHAT POSSIBLE JOY COULD I GET FROM TORTURING YOU?
WHY IS EVERYBODY ALWAYS CALLING ME--
JOKING, OF COURSE. I'M A DEMON. TORTURE IS DELIGHTFUL. ALWAYS.
BUT OUR LAWS ARE QUITE STRICT. MY ROLE HERE IS SIMPLY TO FERRY YOU TO AND FRO.
RIGHT.
SO YOU'RE JUST THE *REAL* DEVIL'S LITTLE B--
THERE IS NO DEVIL REALER THAN ME.
SURE.
I WILL DEVOUR YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS, YOU ROTTING MAGGOT-FILLED HUSK.
SCARY.
YES.
YOU JUST TOLD ME YOU CAN'T, THOUGH.
-SIGH-
TOUCHÉ.

HERE WE ARE, LOATHSOME CHILD.
ROCK BOTTOM.
HOME SWEET HOME.
YOU LIVE HERE?
NO. BUT NOW YOU DO.
WHAT DO YOU KEEP IN THERE?
LOOPHOLES, TECHNICALITIES AND BIG ROLLS OF RED TAPE.
AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT SORT OF HELL.
OR SO I'M TOLD.


SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE ON VIOLENCE.
SENDING EVIL DOWN TO HELL.
AT THE END OF MY BARREL OR BLADE.
PANDEMONIUM.
BUT NOW THAT I'M DOWN HERE WITH 'EM...
...I HAVE NO INTEREST IN A FIGHT.
NOT HERE TO PUNISH.
GOT NO TIME FOR EVIL.
GRR...
GGRWL...
RELAX. JUST PASSING THROUGH.
GRRRR...
BUT AS YOU MIGHT'VE GUESSED...

...EVIL'S GOT TIME FOR ME.
NOW, THIS MIGHT BE PERSONAL.
CRISPY CRITTERS I COOKED BACK WHEN, COMING HOME TO ROOST.
OR JUST A PACK OF DEVIL DOGS AFTER FRESH MEAT.
DON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHICH. LIKE MOST THINGS...
...THE ONLY WAY OUT--
C'MON THEN.
--IS THROUGH.

HOTEL INFERNO, LAS VEGAS.
ALSO HELL...SORT OF. IT'S A WHOLE THING.
SLRRRRRP
MAKE IT STOP! MAKE IT STOP! MAKE IT STOP!
PLEEEAASE!
SHUT UP.
TOOM
TOOM
OH!
THANK!
GOD!
THAT'S NOT GOD.
TOOM
OR MAN OR EARTHLY BEAST.
TOOM
AND IT'S NOT RHYTHMIC ENOUGH FOR EDM.


"IT WOULD SEEM--"
MEPHISTO!
--I'M BEING PUNISHED.

BETTER SADDLE UP, DEMON!
KREEEESH
I'M COMING FOR YOU!

WHERE IS SHE?! WHERE'S CAMMI?
SHE'S DEAD, FRANK. RIP A GIRL'S SOUL OUT, YOU LEAVE BEHIND A CORPSE.
I'M NOT PLAYING WITH YOU, DEVIL!
HER SOUL!
GIVE IT TO ME!
LOOK AT YOU. BURNING UP. SUPERNOVA.
LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TO THROW DOWN.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'RE IN HELL.
NOK NOK
AND I'M IN LAS VEGAS.
IF YOU'D LIKE ME TO BRIDGE THAT GAP, YOU'LL HAVE TO CALM DOWN.
YOU'LL HAVE TO BEHAVE.

GOOD BOY.
GIVE ME THE GIRL.
THINK IT THROUGH, CASTLE.
WHAT DO I WANT WITH THAT KID'S SOUL?
SHE'S BAIT. PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
MEANT TO REEL BACK IN THE BADDEST GHOST RIDER WE EVER HOOKED.
A DIRTY POOL NEGOTIATION TACTIC THAT WOULD'VE WORKED ON ANYBODY... BUT YOU.
I DON'T FOLLOW.
YOU BEAT SNAG, MAN. OUT-HUSTLED THE HUSTLER.
GOT YOURSELF A NEW LEASE ON LIFE. NOT A PUNISHABLE SIN TO YOUR NAME.
I WAS BANKING ON YOU KILLING YOURSELF TO GET DOWN TO SEE ME.
BUT THANKS TO THAT POWER COSMIC, YOU JUST PARACHUTED IN.
BOOTS ON THE GROUND, STOMPING BRIMSTONE MUDHOLES.
I'VE GOT NOTHING AT ALL TO WORK WITH.

HRRK!
WHAT'S YOUR GAME, MEPHISTO?! WHERE'S THE GIRL?
LISTEN TO THE WORDS. GAMMI'S AN INNOCENT.
SHE'S IN THE PIT FOR NOW #KOFFF# SAME AS YOU.
#KOFFF# ON A TECHNICALITY, BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD HER.
IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU, PANDEMONIUM CONTRACT LAW. IRONCLAD.
POOF
SHE'LL WAKE UP, THEN? LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED?
WELL... NO. DEAD IS DEAD, FRANK.
BUT THAT GOLDEN ELEVATOR RIDES ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.
DON'T PLAY WITH ME, DEMON!
DON'T PRETEND YOU CAN'T BRING HER BACK.
I MEAN... I COULD. OF COURSE I COULD.
BUT FOR WHAT IT WOULD COST YOU...
DON'T CARE.
BE SMART FOR ONCE IN YOUR OBNOXIOUSLY LONG LIFE, FRANK.
YOU'D BE SPENDING ETERNITY TO BUY HER THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
INNOCENCE IS FLEETING.
FOREVER IS FOREVER.

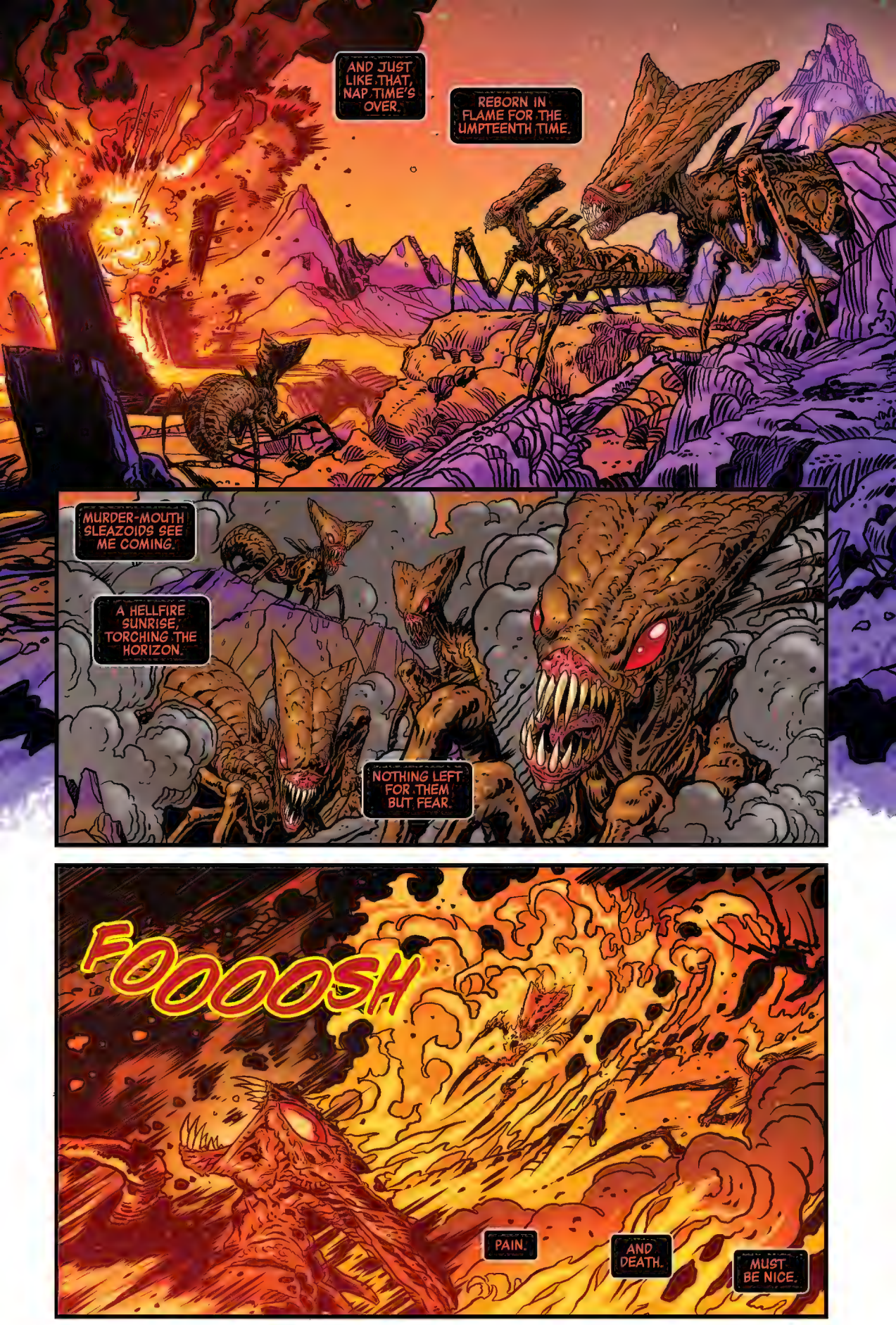
THE RUINS OF SQUAL.
GO ON, GET IN THERE.
WAKE UP.
HUFFF!
FRAAANK!
HEY, YOU.
HI.

WHAT'D I...MISS?
NOT A WHOLE LOT.
BUT... YOUR SOUL...
BACK TO NORMAL IS ALL.
GOD, YOU'RE STUPID.
WHY ARE YOU SO STUPID?
CAREFUL, YOU'LL BURN YOURSELF.
DON'T CARE.
MEPHISTO TRIED TO WARN ME.
HRRRGLL...
EVEN AS HE WAS SETTING HIS HOOK
KNEW DAMNED WELL I WOULDN'T LISTEN...BUT HE SAID IT OUT LOUD

IT COST ME ETERNITY--
--BUT I WAS ONLY BUYING THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
NO! NO! NO! CAMMI!
AAAAAGH!
I KILLED THE COSMIC KING.
I MURDERED THE HOST.
BUT THAT EVIL INSIDE, THAT ANCIENT PARASITE IS A PATIENT SORT.
LYING IN WAIT.
LOOKING FOR A SOUL TO STEAL.
WANTED MINE AND THE POWER THAT COMES WITH IT.
WOULD'VE USED IT TO BURN UP THE COSMOS.

INSTEAD, IT'S BURNING UP MY FRIEND.
STEALING THAT INNOCENCE I FOUGHT SO HARD TO PROTECT.
AND IT'S MY FAULT.
ALL MY FAULT.
I'M SORRY, KID.

I'M SO SORRY.
MONTHS LATER.
KNNNCH
DO BROOD SLEAZOIDS EVEN HAVE SOULS?
I'LL BE DAMNED.
GUESS THEY DO.


AND JUST LIKE THAT, NAP TIME'S OVER.
REBORN IN FLAME FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME.
MURDER-MOUTH SLEAZOIDS SEE ME COMING.
A HELLFIRE SUNRISE, TORCHING THE HORIZON.
NOTHING LEFT FOR THEM BUT FEAR.
FOOOOSH
PAIN.
AND DEATH.
MUST BE NICE.

BUT I'M THE COSMIC @#$% GHOST RIDER.
THERE'S MORE EVIL OUT HERE THAN THERE WAS THIS TIME YESTERDAY.
INCLUDING A REAL GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
CALL IT A MISSION. CALL IT OBSESSION. CALL IT A CURSE.
CALL IT WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT.
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
THE END.

#1 VARIANT BY **Ron Lim** & **Israel Silva**

#1 VARIANT BY **Gerardo Zaffino**

#1 VARIANT BY **Adam Gorham** & **Brian Reber**

#1 VARIANT BY **Logan Lubera** & **Rachelle Rosenberg**

#2 VARIANT BY **Ron Lim & Israel Silva**

#2 VARIANT BY **Superlog**

#2 VARIANT BY **Logan Lubera** & **Rachelle Rosenberg**

#3 VARIANT
BY **Ron Lim** & **Israel Silva**

#3 VARIANT
BY **Logan Lubera** & **Rachelle Rosenberg**

#3 VARIANT
BY **Ozgur Yildirim**

#4 VARIANT
BY **Colly Hamner** & **Matthew Wilson**

#4 VARIANT BY **Logan Lubera** & **Rachelle Rosenberg**

"This is going to be a story of carnage and cockiness with a bit of well-intentioned righteousness mixed in." – Comicbook.com

HE'S BACK, BABY!

WITH A REPUTATION LIKE COSMIC GHOST RIDER'S, it's only a matter of time before the law catches up to this flame-headed future version of Frank Castle and tries to put him in chains. Too bad for the cosmic cops chains are Castle's new weapons of choice! On the run with a rogue hitchhiker in tow – the young Earth woman named Cammi – Frank must take on one of the biggest crime syndicates in the cosmos! But with his soul hanging in the balance, will he damn the whole galaxy to hell to get what he wants? Plus: A new short story from Donny Cates and Geoff Shaw, the crazed minds who kicked off the madness and introduced Cosmic Ghost Rider in the first place!

COLLECTING ***REVENGE OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER #1-5*** – BY DENNIS HOPELESS, SCOTT HEPBURN AND ANTONIO FABELA WITH DONNY CATES, GEOFF SHAW AND MATT MILLA.

PARENTAL ADVISORY

MARVEL